



BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1944.

F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.



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TUNBRIDGE WELLS :
BALDWIN, GROSVENOR ROAD.
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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

(Constitution at 31st December, 1944).

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman WESTBROOK).

Councillor Dr. RANKINE (Chairman).

Alderman Miss BAKER.

Mr. Councillor HARRIES.

Mr. Councillor BEALE.

Mr. Councillor SARGENT.

Mr. Councillor BURNS.

Councillor Miss WELLS.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman WESTBROOK).

Councillor Miss WELLS (Chairman).

Alderman Miss BAKER.

Mr. Councillor HARRIES.

Mr. Councillor BURNS.

Councillor Dr. RANKINE.

Mr. Councillor CAMBURN.

Mr. Councillor SARGENT.

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. GRIPPER.

Dr. M. I. HOUNSFIELD.

Mrs. HAMMOND.

Mrs. PAYNE.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

H. T. TAYLOR, F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A. (a) (b).

Sanitary Inspectors :

W. P. CAVE. (a) (b)

A. G. DAVIES. (a) (b)

T. STEEL. (a) (On war Service) *D. BARBER. (a) (b) (Resigned 6/9/44)

Rodent Operator :

B. E. MANN.

Laboratory Attendant, etc. :

F. SANDS.

- - -

Clerical Staff :

Administrative Assistant :

*H. M. COLES (Appointed 9/10/44).

Acting Chief Clerk :

C. H. WEEKES (On war service). Mrs. D. E. TEBBIT.

Assistant Clerks :

*Miss D. M. JARRETT.

*Miss M. H. COTTON.

*Miss P. BURBIDGE.

D. A. BARMBY (On war service).

Health Visitors :

Miss J. DONALDSON. (c)

Miss M. PAGE. (c) (d)

Miss M. MACLAREN. (c) (d)

Miss E. RICE OXLEY. (c) (d)

*Public Analyst :

A. H. M. MUTER, F.I.C.

Dental Nurse Attendant :

Mrs. J. BRADLEY.

Dental Surgeon :

ALEX. BUCHAN, L.R.C.P. & S., L.D.S. (Ed.). (*On war service*).
 *H. FRIEDLANDER, M.D. (Vienna).

†Medical Officer for Ante-Natal Clinic :

C. R. MORISON, M.D. (*On war service*).
 *ANNE SIMPSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

†Masseuse :

Mrs. K. CLIFFORD. (*Resigned 30/6/44*).

†Medical Officer for Orthopaedic Clinic :

W. H. GERVIS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H. (*On war service*).
 *ANNE SIMPSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare :

F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital :**Medical Superintendent :**

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Matron :

Miss E. M. BROCKLEHURST.

- - -

Borough Wartime Day Nursery :

Medical Officer : THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Matron : Mrs. D. THOMAS.

Deputy Matron : Mrs. L. C. BELDER.

(a) Cert. R.S.I.

(b) Meat and Other Foods Cert.

* Temporary Appointments

(c) Health Visitor's Certificate.

(d) C.M.B. Certificate.

† Part-time Appointments.

INDEX.	PAGE
STATISTICS.	
General Statistics	8
Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year ...	8
Deaths	8
Natural and Social Conditions of the District	9
Infectious Diseases	14
Maternal Mortality	14
Infant Mortality	14
METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1944	17
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.	
Public Health Staff	19
Laboratory Facilities	20
Ambulance Facilities	20
Nursing in the Home	21
Clinics and Treatment Centres	21
Public and Voluntary Hospitals, etc.	22
MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.	
Infant Welfare Centres	25
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic	25
Orthopaedic Treatment	29
Dental Treatment	29
Health Visiting	29
Child Life Protection	29
Assistance in Necessitous Cases	30
Wartime Day Nursery	30
NURSING HOMES	31
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.	
Water Supply	31
Drainage and Sewerage	32
Closet Accommodation	32
Schools	32
Swimming Baths and Pools	32
Eradication of Bed Bugs	32
Housing	33
SANITARY ADMINISTRATION	33
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.	
(a) Notifiable Diseases	39
(b) Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases ...	44
CANCER	45
MANOR GRANGE SICK BAY FOR EVACUEE CHILDREN	47

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report for the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells for 1944.

The year was one of continued war strain, which placed heavy burdens on the Health Department. The clerical staff was depleted, but struggled willingly and loyally under the burden of work. The appointment of Mr. H. M. Coles as Administrative Assistant in October, 1944, has enabled much of the back work, which was accumulating, to be overtaken. The report which is enclosed upon Manor Grange Sick Bay for Evacuee Children is entirely his work. It involved delving into many records, as no report has hitherto been published on this Hospital, for the staffing and running of which I have been responsible.

On looking up old records, I find that, though the population of Tunbridge Wells has increased by less than 2,000 in the past 45 years, the change in its composition has been considerable. Taking the quinquennium 1896-1900, of every 100 deaths, 63 were those of persons under 65 years, and 37 of those over 65 years. In the quinquennium 1940-1944, 28 deaths were those of persons under 65 years, and 72 those of persons over this age. This change is a remarkable tribute to the improved conditions which have prevailed, and which have not only increased the average longevity of persons living in the town, but have improved the health and efficiency of the inhabitants to a remarkable degree.

I have heard it stated, but not for many years, that the attention paid to the care of babies tended to create a population with lowered health, owing to the delicate ones surviving. I put it on record that I have never seen bigger or better babies than those who now attend the Welfare Centres.

One encouraging feature is found in the birth rate for 1944—17.5 per 1,000, a figure which has only once been exceeded since 1906. The birth rate fell to its lowest during the decade 1930-1940. Encouragement of parentage by the State, more and better houses in which healthy environment and wisely chosen diet are available, are factors needed if we as a nation are to obtain that young, vigorous, and healthy population so much needed to people our islands and empire.

This is my final annual report, and I wish to acknowledge my debt to the staff of the whole department for the work which they have carried on so well and so loyally during the difficult period. I beg to express my thanks to the members of the Corporation, and especially to the members of the Health and Housing, Maternity and Child Welfare, and Education Committees, for the support and courteous consideration which I have always received from them.

In leaving them, I would also express my gratitude to my fellow officials for their willing and ever-ready co-operation in the many matters in which they and I were mutually concerned.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	6,034
Population (as extended—Census, 1931)	...				35,839
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population, 1944	...	...	...	...	35,440
Persons per acre	...	...	...	...	5.9
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944)	...				*11,000
Persons per inhabited house	...	...	...		3.2
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£476,114
Sum represented by a penny rate :—					
On General Rate	...	...	...	£1,932 6s. 10d.	
Mean annual temperature	...	...	...		48.8°F.
Total rainfall, 1944	...	...	...		27.47 ins.
Hours of bright sunshine, 1944	...	...	...	1,605 hours 12 minutes	

* *These figures include Flats, and represent the number of separately occupied Premises.*

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Live births	{ Legitimate	...	266	272	538
	{ Illegitimate	...	38	29	67
	{ Total	...	304	301	605

Live Birth Rate per thousand population 17.07 (14.7 in 1943).

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate	...	7	5	12
	{ Illegitimate	...	2	—	2
	{ Total	...	9	5	14
Total Birth Rate	...	...	17.5 per thousand.		

Deaths.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	229	386	615

Crude Death Rate ... 17.35 per thousand.

Corrected for age and sex constitution—(factor for correction 0.731, 1931 Census), 12.7 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

				<i>Rate per 1,000 total</i>
				<i>Deaths. (live and still) births.</i>
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	1		1.65
From other puerperal causes	—			—
		—		—
Total	...	...	...	1.65
		==		==

Death Rate of Infants under one year :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	31.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				32.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				30.0

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	31	71	102
„ „ Measles „ „	—	—	—
„ „ Whooping Cough			
(all ages) ...	—	1	1
„ „ Diarrhoea, etc.			
(under 2 years of age) ...	—	—	—

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Physical Features and General Character.

Tunbridge Wells, though no longer a spa, is a health resort—the nearest to London, and therefore of high value, not only to its residents, but also to many thousands who seek rest and physical and mental renovation amid pleasant surroundings.

The Borough covers over 6,000 acres, and is exceptionally well wooded, with a considerable amount of pasturage in the southern portion. It lies high, most of the houses standing at a level between 300 and 450 feet above the sea. Its climate is therefore breezy and bracing, with sheltered areas in the valleys. The lowest point is 220 feet above sea level, the highest 500 feet, at Blackhurst Collecting Reservoir. It

lies in the extreme south-west corner of Kent, $34\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London. The sub-soil is mostly sandstone—the geological layer known as Tunbridge Wells Sandstone predominating : there are several clay patches—the largest towards the north end of the Borough. Hence comes the great variety of the vegetation—fir trees, birches and heather on the sandstone surfaces ; oaks, beech, and all types of broad-leaved trees where clay patches intervene between the surface loam and the sandstone.

The water supplies are drawn partly from protected springs in sweet chestnut woods to the south-east of the Borough, and largely from borewells into a deep sandstone layer—the Hastings Bed of Sandstone, whose nearest outcrops are in Ashdown Forest. The water is pure and soft : that obtained from the deep borewells passes through Candy pressure filters to remove its iron content before it is delivered to the town. All the water supply is chlorinated before entering the mains. The following analysis of a water sample collected on the 6th November, 1944, from the 15 inch main, Pembury Road, sets forth the findings of Messrs. Muter & Hackman, the Borough Analysts :—

<i>Determination.</i>					<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0020
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0040
Oxygen absorbed	{	in 15 minutes	...	...	0.0065
at 80°F.		in 4 hours	...	...	0.0112
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.075
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	2.55
Equivalent to Sodium Chlorine	...	...	...	...	4.2
Total Solid Matter (dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	...	24.0
*Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	3.0
*Permanent	„	...	...	...	None
Carbonate of Soda	...	...	...	...	13.3
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.12 parts per million
Reaction (pH)	...	...	...	...	7.1
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron)	...	...	...	...	Slight trace of iron
Appearance in two-foot tube	...	...	...	...	Colourless and clear.

The above results, taken in conjunction with the bacteriological findings, indicate that the present condition of this water is satisfactory.

Bacteriological Statement.

No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growing :		B. Coli	Communis	Presumptive
On Standard Gelatin	On Standard Agar	Test :		
in 3 days at 22°C.	in 24 hours at 37°/38°C.	100 c.c.	10 c.c.	1 c.c.
0	0	—	—	—

* It will be noted that the water is soft, total hardness only 3 parts per 100,000.

Population.—The population at mid-year 1944 is estimated by the Registrar-General as 35,440. It is probable that this is an under-estimate, as 11,000 houses were occupied in December, 1944, as compared with 8,981 in December, 1931, the year of the last census return when the census population was 35,839. Moreover, owing to the lack of housing accommodation now existing, two families are living in one house in many instances. Bearing these facts in mind, I am of opinion the population was in the neighbourhood of 37,500 in mid-year 1944. Unfortunately the 1941 Census has been postponed indefinitely : a fresh Census and a fresh correction figure for age and sex constitution of the resident population are much needed, if the vital statistics of the residents are to be accurately rendered.

There are no large industries in the Borough, which is completely residential in character. There are many residents who come on account of its attractive scenery and surroundings, mostly elderly persons who spend the latter part of their lives after retiring from active business. It is also a residential town for London business men, for whom a good morning and evening train service is provided. It is a large shopping centre : there are no large factories, but numerous motor works, garages and laundries.

Amongst the workers are housepainters, builders' labourers, gardeners, railway employees, drivers and conductors of omnibuses and charabancs. Shop assistants, laundry workers and domestic helpers are amongst the female workers, and others who have taken up extra duties since

the outbreak of war, for instance clerical and secretarial duties in the various Government Departments in the town ; also bus-conductresses, workers in small munitions factories, Postal and telephone services, hospital and Civil Defence services, have all absorbed women workers in unusual numbers. The scarcity of female domestic labour has been greatly felt, and the establishment of Home Helps to take over the housework at times of childbirth, and of Domestic Helps in periods of emergency through illness, etc., has proved a great boon. These Corporation services have been much in demand since they were instituted, and this demand tends to increase.

Births.—These numbered 619, of which 14 were stillborn. The birth rate is therefore 17.5 per thousand of population, and has only once been exceeded since 1906. This was in the year 1920, when a rate of 18.3 per thousand was recorded. The lowest rates were reached in the 1930-40 decade. Owing to the presence of maternity homes in the Borough, the number of births notified was 1,192. Those registered as belonging to the Borough, after correction for inward and outward transfers, numbered 619, as stated above.

Deaths.—These numbered 615, after correction for inward and outward transfers. This gives a crude death-rate of 17.35. When corrected for age and sex constitution, as compared with England and Wales in general, the death-rate is 12.7 per thousand of the population (comparability factor 0.731).

One maternal death in consequence of child-birth occurred giving a death rate of 1.6 per 1,000 births. (Figure for England and Wales, 1.93.)

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 19, giving the low infantile mortality rate of 31.4 per thousand births (England 46). Too much weight should not be given to individual annual rates in a comparatively small population : but the trend has been steadily downwards over a number of years, and the lessened number of infant deaths

serves to emphasise my remarks on the improved vitality of the baby of to-day.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1944.

						Males.	Females.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	9	6
7.	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	2
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	4
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Acute Infect. Encephalitis (Lethargica)	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cav., Oesophagus and Uterus	...	...	...	...	3	5
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	15
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	15
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	...	...	...	...	21	38
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	5
18.	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	25	75
19.	Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	70	89
20.	Other diseases of the circulatory system	...	...	...	...	12	11
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	12	15
22.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	10	12
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	7
24.	Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	9	5
25.	Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	8	17
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	11
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	1
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	3
32.	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Dis.	...	...	...	...	5	5
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	5	5
36.	All other Causes	...	...	...	...	22	33
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	229	386

Table showing the average number of Deaths at several ages for consecutive periods of five years.

	1896 to 1900	1901 to 1905	1906 to 1910	1911 to 1915	1916 to 1920	1921 to 1925	1926 to 1930	1931 to 1935	1936 to 1940	1941 †	1942 †	1943 †	1944 †
Deaths under 1 year...	72	57	46	40	36	23	22	18	17	23	23	19	19
" 1 and under 2 }	25	29	23	16	6	3	5	3	4	3	2	3	2
" 2 " " 5 }	21	11	10	16	9	5	5	4	2	4	4	3	3
" 5 " " 15 }	21	11	10	16	15	6	7	5	4	4	7	8	4
" 15 " " 25 }	20	13	14	12	21	10	10	7	7	2	3	9	6
" 25 " " 45 }	121	141	141	145	47	36	37	30	30	23	30	25	23
" 45 " " 65 }	107	104	118	119	113	118	116	86	107				
" 65 and upwards	154	178	205	234	245	276	307	342	365	475	435	451	451

Table showing Number of Deaths from Certain Causes.

Five-Yearly Period.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.		Infec- tious Diseases.	Vio- lence.	In- fluenza.
		Pul- monary.	Non- Pul- monary.			
1886 to 1890 ...	139	201	69	98	45	*
1891 „ 1895 ...	158	174	103	110	44	*
1896 „ 1900 ...	170	131	91	179	62	84
1901 „ 1905 ...	226	167	61	104	45	67
1906 „ 1910 ...	251	154	48	90	35	87
1911 „ 1915 ...	260	133	46	110	49	60
1916 „ 1920 ...	310	150	62	59	50	178
1921 „ 1925 ...	328	111	32	27	65	64
1926 „ 1930 ...	384	106	21	30	59	91
1931 „ 1935 ...	383	65	20	15	57	52
1936 „ 1940 ...	417	60	14	27	85	55
1941† ...	106	12	2	6	22	16
1942† ...	93	13	5	1	21	8
1943† ...	113	11	2	1	18	26
1944† ...	102	15	3	2	13	6

* Reliable figures not available.

† Inserted for comparison

Infectious Diseases.

Details will be found on pages 39 to 44. There were two deaths—one from whooping cough, and one from diphtheria, an inward transfer of the death of a member of the N.A.A.F.I. No case of diphtheria occurred in the Borough during the year. This is the first occasion since records began in which this disease has been absent throughout the year.

Maternal Mortality.

One mother died during 1944 from conditions associated with childbirth—namely, puerperal sepsis. This one death represents a maternal mortality of 1.65 per thousand total births, compared with 1.83 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

Nineteen deaths of infants under one year of age took place during the year under review, being 31.4 per thousand live births, as compared with 35.6 the previous year. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 46.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1944.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age
(in 18 cases).

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes { Certified Uncertified	5 —	5 —	1 —	1 —	12 —	2 —	3 —	— —	1 —	18 —
{ Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Whooping-cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Congenital Malformations	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
{ Premature Birth ...	2	1	1	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Atelectasis	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
{ Injury at Birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
{ Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other Causes	2	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	5

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1944.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births.	Still- Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid or Para- typhoid	Small- pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping- cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and En- teritis (un- der 2 yrs.).	Total Deaths Under year.	
England and Wales ...	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.8	46	
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	7.3	52	
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popu- lation 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931) ...	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	4.4	44	
London Administrative County ...	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	10.1	61	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS ...	17.07	0.39	12.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.16	0.00	31	

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1944.

Months.	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature. In shade, 4ft. above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature.		Temperature Underground.			
	1944.	30 Year Average.	1944.	64 Year Average.	1944.	54 Year Average.	One Foot.	44 Year Average.	Four Feet.	30 Year Average.
January ...	Hrs. Mins. 53 48	Hrs. Mins. 51 6	Inches. 2.39	Inches. 2.81	°F. 41.6	°F. 38.4	°F. 40.4	°F. 39.5	°F. 42.5	°F. 43.5
February ...	62 48	71 36	1.15	2.26	36.8	38.9	38.6	39.0	42.5	42.2
March ...	123 30	125 42	.06	2.23	39.3	42.1	38.8	41.7	40.7	43.0
April ...	169 30	145 24	1.58	2.01	49.7	46.7	49.8	47.0	47.0	46.6
May ...	254 12	210 30	.51	1.95	52.6	52.9	55.4	54.3	52.6	51.1
June ...	209 30	218 36	1.38	1.87	57.0	58.1	60.5	60.5	57.4	56.6
July ...	141 0	205 54	1.94	2.28	62.2	61.5	64.2	63.5	60.6	59.9
August ...	224 36	194 48	2.80	2.34	64.7	61.1	66.1	63.1	63.2	61.2
September	152 54	153 6	2.60	2.22	54.9	57.1	57.9	59.0	60.2	59.9
October ...	89 30	108 36	4.83	3.63	48.3	50.2	50.1	52.5	54.3	56.0
November...	59 18	62 0	5.43	3.59	42.1	43.3	43.6	45.8	48.1	50.3
December	64 36	46 0	2.80	3.33	36.9	39.7	38.8	41.4	44.1	45.7
WHOLE YEAR	1605 12	1593 18	27.47	30.52	48.8	49.2	50.4	50.6	51.1	51.3

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

Tunbridge Wells Municipal Meteorological Station is an official Auxiliary Station reporting to the Meteorological Department of the Air Ministry. The records are kept by the staff of the Health Department, and have been so kept since 1st July, 1914.

The instruments are situated in the Calverley Grounds, the station being somewhat in a hollow. This position tends to make the minimum temperature readings lower than they should be, as cold air gravitates to the bottom of hollows.

The sunshine recorder is established at the Earls Court Hotel, and the standard barometer is in the Health Department at the Town Hall.

The usual certificate from the Meteorological Office is suspended until a better site than that in the Calverley Grounds offers itself.

The observations were made by Mr. W. P. Cave and Mr. A. G. Davies, members of the Staff of the Health Department.

The total amount of bright sunshine recorded was 1,605 hours 12 minutes, the mean amount being 1,593 hours 18 minutes. The most sunny day was June 24th, 14 hours 48 minutes being recorded. There were 71 sunless days, 66 being the average.

The highest temperature in the sun was 140 degrees on 17th July.

The mean temperature in the shade for the year was 48.8 degrees, 49.2 being the average.

The mean daily range was 16.0 degrees, the average being 15.0.

The temperature in the shade four feet above the ground was highest, 91 degrees, on 29th May, and lowest, 20 degrees, on the 6th March.

The hottest night was 23rd August, when the temperature did not go below 62 degrees.

The last frost in the air in Spring was on 19th May, and the first in the Autumn on 28th October. The last on the grass in the Spring, was on 19th May, and the first in the Autumn was on 28th October.

The rainfall amounted to 27.47 inches, the average being 30.52 inches. It fell on 161 days, the average being 173.

The most rain that fell on one day was 1.31 inches on 16th December.

The wind at 9 a.m. was North on 34 days, North-East 71 days, East 15 days, South-East 17 days, South 18 days, South-West 73 days, West 64 days and North-West 74 days.

The amount of cloud at 9 a.m. was 6.6, 6.7 being the average (10 representing overcast sky). Thunder and lightning occurred on 5 days.

There were 17 fogs, and it was misty on 29 other mornings.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Staff.

A list of the Staff of the Public Health Department as at 31st December, 1944, will be found at the beginning of this Report.

Laboratory Facilities.

The number of specimens examined in the Laboratory at the Public Health Offices was 202, compared with 377 in 1943. The nature of these examinations was as follows :—

Examined for the presence of Diphtheria Bacillus	...	...	...	190
" " " " " Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	1
Urine examinations	...	...	...	4
Hairs examined for the presence of Ringworm	...	...	...	6
Other examinations	...	...	...	1

In addition to the above, 117 specimens were forwarded to the County Laboratory at Maidstone for examination, as follows :—

Examined for Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	...	...	32
Sputum examinations for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	...	34
Urine examinations for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	...	1
Faeces examined for various organisms	...	...	...	...	40
Blood	„	„	„	„	9
Pleural Fluid	...	...	...	...	1

Fifty samples of milk were submitted to bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory, also four samples from the Borough water supply. These are additional to the usual analyses of milk and other foods carried out by the Public Analyst (see page 38).

Ambulance Facilities.

There are five ambulances in the Borough. One is garaged at the Borough Fever Hospital and is used only for infectious cases, the male staff of the hospital being responsible for driving it. For non-infectious and accident cases, the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade possesses three ambulances, and one belongs to the Borough Police Force. The St. John Ambulance Brigade provides facilities for removing maternity cases by ambulance. Sitting case cars were also used, being supplied by the W.V.S. and the A.R.P. Casualty Services.

This statement does not include the ambulances under the control of the A.R.P. Casualty Services.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.**—This is undertaken by the Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association, which normally has a staff of seven nurses, and which also undertakes practically all the domiciliary midwifery cases in the Borough. Difficulties in staffing were considerable, as with all branches of the nursing services.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—No calls were made during 1944 on the District Nursing Association to supply a nurse to attend at the homes of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, measles, or whooping cough with broncho-pneumonia.

(c) **Midwives.**—The Kent County Council, which administers the Midwives Acts in the Borough, utilises the services of two whole-time and one half-time midwife, paying the Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association an appropriate grant for such services.

(d) **Home Help Scheme.**—The scheme functioned throughout 1944. For most of the year two Home Helps were employed.

Total cases booked	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cases attended	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ cancelled	...	...	...	...	...	2
Days of assistance involved	...	...	...	...	...	198

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—Full details of these will be found on page 25.

School Clinic.—The School Clinic is situated at 9 and 10, Calverley Terrace, and consists of ten rooms provided by the Education Committee. The Clinic is open each week-day, and in addition to medical inspection and advice, treatment of

defects of the eyes, ears, teeth, orthopaedic defects, and of minor ailments and skin diseases, is undertaken.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—The Kent County Council has a branch Dispensary for Tuberculosis cases from Tunbridge Wells and district, at 34, Calverley Street. Clinics are held on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases.—Venereal Diseases are treated at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, the arrangements being under the control of the Kent County Council. The consultation days are as follows :—

Females—	Wednesdays	2.0 —3.30 p.m.
Males—	„	3.30—5.30 p.m.

Public and Voluntary Hospitals, Etc.

Borough Fever Hospital.—This Hospital has an excellent situation with a southern exposure, standing over 400 feet above sea level, and occupies some six acres of ground, having its own vegetable and fruit gardens.

The accommodation for patients remains unaltered. Additional and modernised staff accommodation is urgently required, but was deferred owing to the outbreak of war. In future plans for the extension of the hospital, suitable staff accommodation will require to be the first consideration.

Difficulties of obtaining staff have been very great. In addition to the general nursing shortage, the smaller fever hospitals are handicapped by not being allowed to give a training course qualifying for a Fever Certificate. This disadvantage means that whatever nurses are available for fever training tend to be absorbed by the larger hospitals. There seems no immediate prospect of this difficulty lessening.

Patients are taken from Tunbridge Wells and Southborough and from the adjacent northern portion of the Battle Rural District of East Sussex. During the war patients were also taken from some of the south coast towns, namely Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings.

Admissions during the year were as follows :—

	Tun- bridge Wells.	East- bourne.	South- borough.	East Sussex.	Ton- bridge.	Mili- tary.
*						
Scarlet Fever ...	34	22	9	15	—	2
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	—	—	—	1	2
Pleurisy ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Rash ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tonsillitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Rubella ...	—	—	—	—	—	6
Mumps ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
	37	22	10	16	1	13

Total cases admitted from the Borough ...	...	...	...	37
“ “ “ “ other Districts ...	...	...	...	62
TOTAL	...	...	...	99

Smallpox Hospital.—The Conjoint Smallpox Hospital catering for the south-west portion of Kent, is situated at Capel: it accommodates 18 adult patients. There were no admissions during 1944. This hospital has now been leased temporarily to the Kent County Council, which will provide staff from Pembury Hospital should occasion to treat smallpox cases arise.

The Kent and Sussex Hospital.—This is a handsome modern hospital, occupying a good site, and is well equipped for dealing with all forms of medical, surgical and radiological treatment. It normally has 210 beds, including 18 for private patients. Its bed accommodation has been doubled during the war period by the erection of wooden hutment wards in the hospital grounds.

Pembury Hospital.—This large hospital, under the control of the Kent County Council, is situated outside, but near the Borough boundary. It takes Tunbridge Wells maternity cases by agreement, being those for whom no suitable accommodation is available at home or in the Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home, or those requiring special medical or surgical treatment. Each case sent is authorised by the Medical Officer of Health, those on the grounds of unsuitable home accommodation being investigated by the Health Department prior to authorisation being given.

There is a well-equipped maternity block with operating theatre, and a resident medical staff, so that in all cases where any complication is expected at the time of confinement, skilled attention is available.

Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home.—This Home, which was built as a women's thank-offering for the return of peace after the first World War, serves a very useful function for Tunbridge Wells and neighbourhood. It is a large well-built house, which is admirably adapted to its purpose. There are labour rooms on the first and ground floors, and accommodation for some 20 patients. It is run by a voluntary Committee, of which the Medical Officer of Health is a member, and he also acts as Hon. Administrative Medical Officer to the Home. It draws its patients from a wide area around the town, and it was not possible to accommodate all applicants during 1944. Four hundred and seven cases were admitted during the year, of which 197 were Borough residents, i.e. roughly one in every three Tunbridge Wells mothers had their babies in the Home.

The Homœopathic Hospital is a comfortable, airy and well-lighted building, with a sunshine balcony looking on to the Common. Its normal 30 beds were increased in number during the war period. One of the town's Mobile Units has

been based on this hospital since the outbreak of war, and a member of the trained nursing staff has acted as the nurse in charge of this Unit, the rest of its staff being volunteers.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Council has made the following arrangements for its Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough :—

Infant Welfare Centres.—The Chief Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, 9 and 10, Calverley Terrace. Clinics are held here each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

There is also a branch Centre at Rusthall, meeting each Wednesday afternoon in the hall and rooms adjoining the Congregational Church in Rusthall High Street.

The total number of attendances at the Centres during 1944 was 8,830, compared with 9,801 during the previous year. The table on the following page analyses the attendances, etc.

Two thousand, two hundred and sixty-eight medical consultations were held, as compared with 2,701 in 1943.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic.—This Clinic was held on Wednesday and Friday afternoons until the middle of August, and from then onwards on Fridays only. Dr. Simpson took the clinic throughout the year.

A total of 205 ante-natal cases attended and 619 consultations were held during the 82 sessions.

	Borough Residents.			Other Cases.		
	Primips.	Multips.	Total.	Primips.	Multips.	Total.
Individual Ex- pectant Mothers ...	74	170	244	2	1	3
Consultation ...	215	438	653	2	1	3

In addition to the above, five mothers attended for post-natal examinations.

Authorisations for admission to Pembury Hospital are made for medical reasons and for lack of suitable accommodation elsewhere. Seventy-nine such authorisations were made during the year.

The table on the next page shows the attendances at the various clinics.

Attendances at Infant Welfare Centres, 1944.

	Tunbridge Wells— Tuesday Clinic.		Rusthall— Wednesday Clinic.		Tunbridge Wells— Thursday Clinic.		TOTALS.	
	1944 (51 sessions).	1943 (52 sessions).	1944 (52 sessions).	1943 (52 sessions).	1944 (52 sessions).	1943 (52 sessions).	1944	1943
Number of attendances—Infants under one year of age.	1315	1251	668	712	1059	1090	3042	3053
Number of attendances—Children one to five years of age.	519	829	445	725	622	612	1586	2166
Number of attendances by Mothers (excluding those at Ante-Natal Clinic)	1698	1837	976	1226	1528	1519	4202	4582
Total Attendances 	3532 (69)	3917 (75)	2089 (40)	2663 (51)	3209 (61)	3221 (62)	8830	9801
Consultations with Medical Officer:								
Infants 	610	562	216	339	550	574	1376	1475
Children 	365	485	150	382	377	359	892	1226
Totals 	975 (19)	1047 (20)	366 (7)	721 (12)	927 (18)	933 (18)	2268	2701

NOTE—Figures in brackets indicate the approximate average attendances per session.

	Births.				Sex.		Legitimacy.			Notified by.				
	Live.	Stillborn.		Total.	M.	F.	Total.	Leg.	Illeg.	Total	Drs.	Mid.	Total.	
		M.	F.											
TOTAL Births notified Outward transfers	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
	1192	16	14	1222	608	614	1222	1124	98	1222	222	1000	1222	
	747	14	11	772	385	387	772	698	74	772	79	693	772	
Net Boro. Births	445	2	3	450	223	227	450	426	24	450	143	307	450	
Borough Births as per Birth Register														
Inward Transfers	...	...	...	445	Still Births	5	Total	450	a = Total.	b = out district cases.				
	...	...	...	160	"	9	"	169						
Totals adjusted for inward and outward transfers... 605														
Birth-rate of 17.5 per thousand (after correction for in and out transfers).														

Orthopaedic Treatment.—During the year 14 children under school age were seen by Mr. W. H. Gervis, the Orthopaedic Specialist, at his monthly clinic. Twenty-one consultations were held, of these 10 were new cases.

Dental Treatment.—Fifty-two mothers and 14 pre-school children made 64 and 18 attendances respectively for dental treatment. The following is a summary of the treatment given :—

				<i>No. of treatments.</i>
Temporary teeth extracted	...	...		5
Permanent ,, ,,	...	...		50
Temporary teeth filled	...	...		10
Permanent ,, ,,	...	...		28
Temporary ,, —other operations	...			7
Permanent ,, ,, ,,	...			1
				101

Health Visiting.—The following home visits were paid by the Nursing Staff during the year :—

(a) To expectant mothers	...	First visits	...	270
		Total visits	...	616
(b) To children under 1 year of age		First visits	...	479
		Total visits	...	2,027
(c) To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.		Total visits	...	2,786
(d) Where infants have died (including stillbirths)		Total visits	...	32
(e) Found “no-one at home”	...	...	...	889

Child Life Protection.—On December 31st, 1944, there were within the Borough 192 children under the care of 33 registered foster-mothers. This figure includes St. Christopher's Nursery College and Court Royal Residential Nursery,

the number of children boarded out in private homes being 40 and in residential homes 152.

Two hundred and twenty-nine visits of inspection were paid during the year, of these 34 were visits to inspect the homes of foster mothers, 229 were visits to children placed with foster mothers and 36 were visits paid to persons intending to adopt a child.

Where failure in complying with the provisions of Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936, was reported, a warning was given to the foster mother.

Assistance in Necessitous Cases.—The Corporation gave direct assistance with Maternity Home fees in 15 instances: the sum of £27 6s. 0d. was expended in this manner, in addition to the annual subsidy of £50 paid towards the upkeep of the Maternity Home.

Food and drugs to the value of £9 1s. 0d. were issued at the Welfare Centres free of cost to necessitous cases, and were sold at cost price to the value of £147 10s. 4d.

Wartime Day Nursery.—The Wartime Day Nursery at 17, Lansdowne Road, opened in July, 1943, continued to function very successfully during 1944.

There was always a waiting list for admission, and as soon as one place fell vacant, it was taken up by others.

The Nursery had accommodation for 56 children, and was staffed by a Matron, Deputy Matron, Warden, two Certificated Nursery Nurses and five Students; there was also a trained certificated Cook, who assisted in the instruction of the students in the work of her department. The students were all in course of training for the Certificated Nursery Nurses' Diploma, and all the pupils at this Nursery who eventually sat for the examination were successful.

The health and vitality of the children attending the Nursery continued to be good, and the atmosphere in general was bright and cheerful. Many visitors from other nurseries, and from other parts of the county came or brought students to see the Lansdowne Road Nursery, which has gained a considerable reputation as an excellently conducted institution.

Thanks to the vigilance of the Matron and Deputy Matron, no epidemics occurred in the Nursery during the year.

NURSING HOMES.

	Number of Homes.	Number of <i>beds</i> provided for :		
		Maternity.	Others.	Total.
Homes first registered during the year ...	2	1	13	14
Homes on the register at the end of the year ...	17	7	109	116

Action during 1944 :—

Number of applications for registration refused ...	...	...	—
Number of exemptions granted under Section 192 (1) ...	...	...	3
Number of exemptions withdrawn under Section 192 (2) ...	...	...	—
Number of registrations cancelled under Section 188 ...	...	...	1
Number of appeals by aggrieved persons to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, under Section 189 (3) ...	...	...	—
Number of cases in which fines were imposed ...	...	...	—
Number of inspections ...	...	...	30
Number of registered homes not inspected ...	...	...	—

The inspections are carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, who also supervises the adaptation of fresh premises for nursing home purposes, paying as many visits as occasion requires.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.—This is drawn from the same sources as before, namely springs around the Pembury area and from a deep borewell at Pembury, and also from a deep borewell at Saints' Hill, Fordcombe.

Water is supplied to the parish of Frant in East Sussex from the Tangier Springs. All water supplies are chlorinated. Bacterial tests of the supplies are made frequently, and chemical tests each month. All tests have given satisfactory results.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Sewage from the Borough drains towards the North and South Sewage Farms, in which no major changes were made during the year under review. Tests from the North Farm are not fully satisfactory, and there is no doubt that the land used for broad irrigation is sour and no longer equal to performing its work.

Closet Accommodation.—No earth closets exist in the Borough. 60 water closets empty into cesspools which are emptied periodically by the Borough Surveyor's Staff.

Public Cleansing.—The arrangements for refuse collection and disposal were continued throughout the year. Twelve thousand, five hundred refuse receptacles are emptied periodically. The low lying land near the North Sewage Farm was in use for tipping until the end of 1944.

Schools.—All Schools in the Borough are supplied with town water and are connected with the public sewers.

There was no closure of schools or classes on account of infectious diseases during 1944.

With regard to the milk supplied to schools, samples were taken during the year and examined bacteriologically.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—The Corporation own Indoor and Open-Air Swimming Baths.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—One hundred and thirty houses were disinfested by use of "Zaldecide" spraying;

in suitable cases sprays were loaned to the occupants of infested premises to continue treatment until freed.

Housing.—The need for more and better equipped houses became increasingly manifest ; no action could be taken until man-power and material are available, and the removal of war-time restrictions on building allows of a commencement being made.

The following is a report on the work of the Sanitary Inspecting Staff, for the preparation of which I am indebted to MR. TAYLOR, the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the year 1944.

Table No. 1.

The following Table gives a general summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Houses inspected under the Housing Act	...	...	...	...	17
Premises inspected other than under the Housing Act	...	...	...	...	398
Houses inspected <i>re</i> dustbin accommodation	...	...	...	...	82
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	220
Visits to slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	884
„ „ other food premises (excluding bake-houses)	...	...	...	...	595
„ „ bake-houses	...	...	...	...	103
„ „ restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	50
„ „ dairies	...	...	...	...	142
„ „ cowsheds	...	...	...	...	148
„ „ mechanical factories	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ non-mechanical factories	...	...	...	...	35
„ „ work places	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ stables	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ streams	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ <i>re</i> keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ rats and mice destruction	...	...	...	...	176
„ „ Shops Act	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ overcrowding	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	25
„ „ verminous houses	...	...	...	...	28
„ to air raid shelters and rest centres	...	...	...	...	53
Interviews respecting property	...	...	...	...	209
Secondary visits <i>re</i> works in progress and to be executed	...	...	...	...	1,760
Visits respecting cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	18
Rooms disinfected by sanitary inspectors	...	...	...	...	35
Loads of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	7
Other visits	...	...	...	...	579
Smoke-test—houses	...	...	...	...	2
Water test to drains—times applied	...	...	...	...	19
Informal notices served	137,	respecting	145	houses.	
Formal	„	„	9	„	
„	„	„	9	„	
„	„	„	9	„	
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	1,042
Food condemned and destroyed (excluding tins of food)—	50 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs. 4 lbs.				

Carcases of home-killed meat examined in slaughter-houses	... 12,072
Samples of food and drugs examined by Public Analyst	... 107
" " " found below standard	... 10
Police Court Proceedings : Failure to comply with abatement Order —Fined £3. and continuing penalty of 5/- per day.	
Application for Order for cost of work done in default under provisions of Housing Act, 1936—granted.	

Table No. 2—Housing.

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... 415
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 2,754
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	17
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 189
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... 289

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... 209
---	---------

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	... Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... 3

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... 5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	... 5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... Nil.

C.—Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... Nil.

D.—*Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil.
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year		1
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein		1
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein		5
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		Nil.
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		Nil.
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases		Nil.
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	—

Table No. 3—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply :—**

Licences in force at the end of the year :—					
Dealers' licences :	Tuberculin tested Milk	...	...	...	6
„ „	Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	1
Supplementary licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk				...	1
Pasteurisers' licences	...	...	...	...	4
Licences to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk				...	1
Number of Dairy Farms in the Borough		...	...	...	16
„ „ „ „	licensed for the production of				
	Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ „	licensed for the production of Ac-				
	credited Milk	...	...	...	3
„ „	visits to cowsheds	...	...	...	148
„ „	dairies	...	...	...	142

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Number of Government controlled slaughter-houses in use	...	2
„ „ visits to slaughter-houses		884
„ „ „ „ other food premises (excluding bake-houses		595
„ „ home-killed carcasses examined at time of slaughter		12,072
Food condemned and destroyed (excluding tins of food) :		
	50 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs. 4 lbs.	

(c) Details of Food condemned :—

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs. including	Tubercular.
					T. C. Q. lbs.
Beef (home-killed)	26	13	1	6	25 18 0 11
„ (offals) „ „	11	6	0	18	11 3 1 22
Pork „ „		15	1	10	12 1 19
Pigs-heads „ „		8	1	19	All
Ox-livers „ „	4	7	0	4	1 8 0 18
Other offals „ „		7	2	13	1 1 19
Mutton „ „		5	2	2	
Imported Beef ...		1	2	7	
Imported Mutton			1	6	
Imported Hams	2	3	2	10	
Imported Pig Livers	1	17	3	5	

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.
Imported Pork trim-				
mings				23
Sausage Meat ...	13	0		10
Fresh Fish ...	11	2		16
Shell Fish ...	3	2		7
Smoked Fish ...		1		23
Chicken ...	1	0		26
Oranges	7	0		17 and five cases
Split Peas ...	1	3		12
Bacon	1	2		20
Ham		2		0
Jam		2		2 and 57 tins.
Sweets		2		11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Raisins				25
Flour		1		19 and 82 packets.
Cheese		1		1
Tea				24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Biscuits and Biscuit				
Meal		1		0
Butter and Margarine				15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vegetable Salad				18 and 3 tins.
Prunes				13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Apple rings ...				1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Junket				5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Suet				12
Milk	...	339		tins.
Meat	...	653		„
Fish	...	586		„
Beans	...	169		„
Peas	...	42		„
Other Vegetables	...	10		„
Meat and Vegetable Meals	...	50		„
Soup	...	55		„
Fruit	...	55		„
Custard Powder	...	62		„
Spaghetti	...	2		„
Pudding Mixture	...	131		„ and 360 packets.
Cereals	...	229		packets.
Pickled Cabbage	...	4		jars.
Fish Paste	...	2		„
Honey	...	1		„
Meat Paste	...	1		„
Fish Cakes	...	696		
Meat Pies	...	62		
Rooks	...	289		
Gulls	...	34		
Magpies	...	1		
Ducks	...	1		

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Casttle, exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1914	1855	51	7239	1013
Number inspected ...	1914	1855	51	7239	1013
All diseases except Tuber- culosis :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	1	1	—	12	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	124	419	1	153	53
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	6.5	22.6	1.9	2.3	5.4
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	10	102	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	155	663	—	—	45
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	8.6	41.2	—	—	4.9

TOTAL CARCASSES INSPECTED ... 12,072.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.
Number and Description of Samples analysed by the Public Analyst.

Nature of Article.	Examined.			Adulterated.			Remarks.
	Formal	Informal	Total.	Formal.	Informal	Total.	
Milk	49	2	51	7	—	7	7% deficient in fact. Cautioned. 4%, 2%, 1½%, 3½%, 4%, 3½% and one 20% deficient in fat. Six samples taken in course of delivery. Farmer cautioned.
Cheese	—	1	1				
Butter	—	1	1				
Pepper	—	2	2				
Ground Spice ...	—	1	1				
Powdered Gelatine	—	2	2				
Mustard Compound	—	1	1				
Pudding Mixture ...	—	2	2				
Egg Substitute ...	—	1	1				
Baking Powder ...	—	2	2				
Stuffing	—	2	2				One deficient 50% in C.O.2.
Vinegar, ...	—	1	1				
Custard Powder ...	—	2	2				
Semolina	—	2	2				
Soup	—	1	1				
Lemonade powder	—	2	2				
Eezit Tablets ...	—	1	1				
Dried Parsley ...	1	1	2	1	1	2	
Coffee	—	1	1				
Cocoa	—	3	3				Excess siliceous matter. Vendor cautioned.
Ground Ginger ...	—	3	3				
Ground Cinnamon...	—	2	2				
Flavouring Essence	—	2	2				
Curry Powder ...	—	1	1				
Fruit drinks ...	—	2	2				
Coffee & Chicory Essence ...	—	2	2				
Boracic Ointment	—	2	2				
Basilicon Ointment	—	1	1				
Iodine	—	1	1				
Castor Oil	—	1	1				
Bicarbonate Soda ...	—	2	2				
Seidlitz Powder ...	—	1	1				
Camphorated Oil ...	—	3	3				
Zinc & boracic powder	—	1	1				
Epsom salts ...	—	2	2				
TOTALS	50	57	107	8	1	9	

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(A) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Three hundred and thirty-six cases of infectious disease were notified during 1944. The following Tables give details of the seasonal and age incidence of, and the mortality from these notifiable diseases :—

Seasonable Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1944.

DISEASES.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	3	3	3	5	1	2	3	1	2	2	7	2	34
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	4	7	4	2	3	3	—	1	—	2	2	29
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	4	5	—	1	—	16
Erysipelas ...	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	8	34	18	24	27	14	5	2	—	1	135
Dysentery (Sonne) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Measles ...	1	—	1	3	7	26	40	16	1	4	—	—	99
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Group ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	9	10	23	49	28	55	75	37	16	10	14	10	336

AGES, Etc., OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1944.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified (All ages).	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 2 years.	2 years and under 3 years.	3 years and under 4 years.	4 years and under 5 years.	5 years and under 10 years.	10 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 20 years.	20 years and under 35 years.	35 years and under 45 years.	45 years and under 65 years.	65 years and over	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths (Inhabitants only).
Scarlet Fever ...	34 (2)	—	—	3	1	4	17	4	3	2	—	—	—	33	—
Pneumonia ...	29 (5)	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	7	1	9	4	—	22
Puerperal Pyrexia	16 (5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	4	—	2	—	1*
Erysipelas ...	5 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	135 (—)	15	20	18	19	—	48	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery (Sonne) ...	3 (1)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	9 (9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neon.	3 (1)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Measles ...	99 (3)	3	6	7	8	—	56	5	1	3	—	—	—	3	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid ...	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTE: Figures in brackets (column 2) indicate the number occurring amongst outside cases in institutions in the Borough.
 * Only certain forms of pneumonia are notifiable, but this figure includes deaths from all forms.

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty-four cases were notified, giving a case rate of 0.95 per thousand population, as compared with 2.4 for England and Wales. There were no fatalities. The type of disease continued mild, and 33 cases were treated in the Borough Fever Hospital.

Diphtheria.—There were no cases of diphtheria notified in the Borough—the first occasion upon which this disease has been absent since records have been kept. One death occurred of a member of N.A.A.F.I. in an institution in another district, being allotted to Tunbridge Wells as the woman's home address was in the Borough.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic has been held at the School Clinic premises since March, 1938, and the following tables gives particulars of the work carried out during 1944 :

	Pre-school children.	School children.	Total.
Preliminary Schick Test :			
Negative —	—	—	—
Positive + ...	—	—	—
A.P.T. :—			
1st injection	272	78	350
2nd „	267	87	354
3rd „	10	4	14
4th „	5	4	9
T.A.M. :—			
1st injection... ..	1	4	5
2nd „	11	4	15
3rd „	11	3	14
4th „	3	—	3
Final Schick Test :—			
Negative	264	121	385
Positive	1	7	8
Immunised during year	278	90	368
Attendances	1,109	452	1,561
Percentage of total child population immunised at end of year ...	73.4%	78.36%	75.88%

There can be no questioning the fact that the immunisation of a high percentage of the young people has been the chief contributory factor in the recent fall in the number of

cases of diphtheria. Every effort is being made to keep the proportion of immunised persons above the danger figure, and the response to the notices of the value of this method of disposing of a dangerous disease has been most gratifying to all interested in the health of the public.

A fresh record was achieved in 1944, in that *no* case of diphtheria occurred amongst the normal inhabitants of the town.

Erysipelas.—Five notifications were received, giving a case rate for the Borough of 0.13 (England and Wales, 0.29). There were no fatalities.

Pneumonia.—Twenty-nine cases of acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia were notified during the year. Twenty-two deaths from all forms were recorded.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Sixteen cases were notified, 11 being Borough mothers. No cases were admitted to the Borough Fever Hospital, and there was one death, which occurred in the Kent and Sussex Hospital.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—One case was notified during the year. No deaths were recorded.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—One case, which did not prove fatal, was notified.

Typhoid Group.—One case was notified, giving a case rate of 0.03 compared with 0.02 for England and Wales.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Three cases of this disease were notified. There were no fatalities, and no permanent impairment of vision.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—Ninety-nine cases of measles and 135 of whooping cough were notified. One death

from whooping cough occurred ; there were no deaths from measles.

Tuberculosis.—The number of persons whose names were on the Register of cases at the end of 1944 was 192 (126 pulmonary, 66 non-pulmonary). The table given below shows the incidence of this disease at the end of each of the four quarters of the year :

	1st Quarter.			2nd Quarter.			3rd Quarter.			4th Quarter.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis :</i>												
Number of cases on register	60	52	112	62	50	112	66	49	115	69	53	122
New notifications ...	4	—	4	6	3	9	3	3	6	2	4	6
Cases removed and subsequently restored ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added to register (inward transfers) ...	3	—	3	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	5	2	7	4	4	8	—	—	—	2	—	2
Cases remaining on register	62	50	112	66	49	115	69	53	122	69	57	126
<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</i>												
Number of cases on register	36	38	74	36	35	71	34	35	69	33	32	65
New notifications ...	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Cases removed and subsequently restored ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added (inward transfers) ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	—	4	4	3	2	5	1	3	4	—	1	1
Cases remaining on register	36	35	71	34	35	69	33	32	65	34	32	66

Total cases on register at 31st December, 1944 — 192.

A gradual rise in notification occurred during the war period, as also happened during the 1914-18 War.

Meanwhile mortality from this disease has, with the exception of the period at and after the close of the first World War, steadily declined throughout the five-yearly periods set forth in the underlying table, in which the last column shows the death rate to be roughly one-fifth of that of fifty years ago. Knowledge of the value of fresh air and exercise, better housing, better nourishment, less poverty

and want, improved methods of treatment, safeguarding of the purity of milk—all have played a part in this steady gain against a disease which once levied so heavy a toll. King Edward VII's famous terse remark on tuberculosis, "If preventible, why not prevented?" still holds good.

The pulmonary death rate was 0.31, and the total death rate 0.40 per thousand of population in 1944.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Five-yearly Period.	No. of Pulmonary Deaths.	Pulmonary Death Rate.	No. of Non-Pulmonary Deaths.	Total Deaths.	Tuberculosis Death Rate.
1891-1895 ...	174	1.21	103	277	1.93
1896-1900 ...	131	0.86	91	222	1.45
1901-1905 ...	167	0.98	61	228	1.34
1906-1910 ...	154	0.87	48	202	1.13
1911-1915 ...	133	0.75	46	179	1.00
1916-1920 ...	144	0.87	64	208	1.27
1921-1925 ...	112	0.65	32	144	0.84
1926-1930 ...	106	0.61	21	127	0.73
1931-1935 ...	66	0.38	19	85	0.49
1936-1940 ...	61	0.34	13	74	0.41
1941 ...	12	0.32	2	14	0.37
1942 ...	13	0.35	5	18	0.48
1943 ...	10	0.36	2	12	0.36
1944 ...	11	0.31	3	14	0.40

(B) NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cancer.—One hundred and two deaths from cancer occurred in 1944. The following table shows the relative incidence of the disease in sexes, age groups and sites of attack :

DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1944.

	Total	MALES.							FEMALES.								
		Under 30 yrs.	30-40 yrs.	40-50 yrs.	50-60 yrs.	60-70 yrs.	70-80 yrs.	Over 80 yrs.	Total	Under 30 yrs.	30-40 yrs.	40-50 yrs.	50-60 yrs.	60-70 yrs.	70-80 yrs.	Over 80 yrs.	Total
Totals	102	—	1	—	5	13	8	4	31	—	2	3	9	19	19	19	71
Stomach ...	18	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	4	—	—	—	2	4	3	5	14
Breast ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	3	10
Colon, Bowel																	
Rectum	21	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	—	1	—	2	4	5	5	17
Lung ...	8	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	5	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Liver ...	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	7
Pancreas	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus, etc.	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	—	7
Prostate	4	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bladder ...	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	5	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Oesophagus	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Brain or																	
Spinal Cord	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3
Ovary ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Bone ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bronchus	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pharynx ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mediastinum	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Tongue, etc.	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

Scabies.—At the Public Health Clinic Centre, a cleansing station, consisting of dressing room, bath and dressing room, and a disinfecting room, exists. When a case is detected, inspection of the rest of the household is undertaken by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Two hundred and seventy-one cases were treated during the year, as follows :—

Children under School Age :

No. of cases notified	...	...	...	...	58
No. of treatments given :					
Baths	...	...	...	...	281
Local treatment		...	...	...	32

School Children :

No. of cases notified	...	...	...	...	132
No. of treatments given :					
Baths	...	...	...	...	702
Local treatment		...	...	...	136

Adults :

No. of cases notified	...	...	...	...	81
No. of treatments given :					
Baths	...	...	...	...	247
Local treatment		...	...	...	29

MANOR GRANGE SICK BAY FOR EVACUEE CHILDREN UNACCOMPANIED BY PARENTS.

This Sick Bay was established in Manor Grange, a large house near Bishop's Down, at the instance of the Ministry of Health, and was administered by the Medical Officer of Health throughout its existence of over four years.

The following is a complete record of the cases admitted during this period :—

(1) Admissions, 6/7/40—21/8/44 (last case discharged 30/8/44) :—

(a) Cases admitted from address in Borough—

Of these (1) Evacuees from other districts	...	...	79
(2) Refugees	...	...	2
(3) Borough residents	...	...	95
			176

(b) Cases admitted from other districts	...	...	130
---	-----	-----	-----

TOTAL CASES	...	...	306
-------------	-----	-----	-----

(2) Reason for Admission :—

	<i>Disease.</i>						<i>No. of cases.</i>
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Rubelia	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Whooping-cough and pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Severe chill	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Minor Epilepsy and Enuresis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pediculosis and Impetigo of Scalp	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Refugees	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
S.F. Carrier	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cone. Syph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles and Whooping-Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping-cough and Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Salmonella	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							306

(3) Length of Stay.

The following table shows the length of stay in hospital :—

No. of cases.	In hos- pital.	Total days.	No. of cases.	In hos- pital.	Total days.	No. of cases.	In hos- pital.	Total days.
	days			days			days	
4	3	12	9	23	207	1	44	44
2	4	8	7	24	168	2	45	90
5	5	25	3	25	75	1	46	46
4	6	24	4	26	104	3	47	141
12	7	84	4	27	108	2	48	96
10	8	80	5	28	140	5	49	245
22	9	198	1	29	29	1	51	51
12	10	120	6	30	180	1	52	52
17	11	187	2	31	62	1	53	53
21	12	252	1	32	32	2	54	108
20	13	260	1	33	33	2	55	110
30	14	420	3	34	102	2	57	114
10	15	150	1	35	35	1	58	58
13	16	208	1	36	36	1	60	60
6	17	102	1	37	37	1	61	61
3	18	54	4	38	152	1	64	64
7	19	133	1	39	39	1	75	75
5	20	100	2	40	80	1	81	81
3	21	63	3	41	123	1	82	82
7	22	154	1	43	43	1	84	84
222	—	2841	54	—	1712	28	—	1581

Total cases—304

Total days—6,134.

In two cases the discharge dates are not traceable so they have been excluded from above table.

4. Comparative Statistics :

- (a) 159 cases were in hospital up to a period of 14 days.
(Total, 1,670 days.) Average stay per case ... 10.5
- (b) 204 cases were in hospital up to a period of 21 days.
(Total, 2,480 days.) Average stay per case ... 12.15
- (c) 287 cases were in hospital up to a period of 49 days.
(Total, 5,081 days.) Average stay per case ... 17.7
- (d) 304 cases were in hospital up to a period of 84 days.
(Total, 6,134 days.) Average stay per case ... 20.17

(All above exclude the two cases whose discharge dates are unobtainable, the average stay in each instance would not be materially altered if the two cases were included *pro rata*.)

Total cases admitted ... 306

Total Inmate days ... 6134 plus 2 cases not recorded.

Say 15 days each ... 6164

